

[No Report.]

FEBRUARY 4, 1847.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMASSON, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To provide for establishing a post road from the Potomac river, opposite the District of Columbia, to the Columbia river, in the Oregon Territory.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 when the States of Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and
4 Missouri shall authorize the construction of a continuous rail-
5 road from a suitable point on the Potomac river, opposite the
6 District of Columbia, in the direction to the Columbia river, to
7 a point near the mouth thereof in the Oregon Territory, and
8 stock equal to twenty thousand dollars per mile shall be taken,
9 either by the States, respectively, or by individuals, then there
10 shall be, and hereby is appropriated, seventeen thousand two
11 hundred and eighty acres of land per mile, to aid in the con-
12 struction of said road.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That when the hereafter*
2 to be constituted legislative authority over the territory west of
3 Missouri shall authorize the construction of such continuous

4 road, or any part thereof, from the Missouri line to the indicated
 5 western terminus, and stock equal to fifteen thousand dollars per
 6 mile shall be taken, as hereinbefore provided, then there shall
 7 be, and hereby is appropriated, twenty-three thousand and forty
 8 acres of land per mile, to aid in the construction of said road ;
 9 scrip to issue for the land, in all cases, in the same ratio as pay-
 10 ment is made on residue of stock.

1 *SEC. 3. And be it further enacted,* That for said appropria-
 2 tion of land to aid in the construction of said railroad the mails
 3 of the United States, (not exceeding one going and returning
 4 when Congress is not in session ; and when Congress is in ses-
 5 sion two going and two returning every twenty-four hours in
 6 time of peace, and as often as required in time of war,) muni-
 7 tions of war, provisions for the army and navy, and all persons
 8 sent by order and on business of the government, shall be trans-
 9 ported on said road free of charge.

1 *SEC. 4. And be it further enacted,* That the merchandise
 2 and products of foreign countries transported on said road for
 3 re-exportation shall not pay a higher toll than a quarter of a
 4 cent per pound per hundred miles, and the price of passage for
 5 persons shall not exceed one cent per mile for distances over one
 6 hundred miles, and two cents per mile for a less distance.

1 *SEC. 5. And be it further enacted,* That the scrip issued
 2 for the foregoing appropriations shall be receivable in payment
 3 for any land belonging to the United States not previously sold.

4 And no right of pre-emption shall be given for settlement made
5 on the public lands in the three adjoining townships through
6 which said road shall pass, after the road is located ; but said
7 lands, when brought into market, shall be subject to sale for
8 twelve months at the minimum price of public lands for said
9 scrip only ; and if not sold within that time, for said scrip, then
10 to be subject to sale as other lands.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That when charters are
2 granted by two or more contiguous States, and stock as provided
3 herein shall be taken, then said appropriation of land shall be
4 made for the distance said road is provided for. And each
5 charter shall provide for the right of way, either by bridge or
6 ferry, across a water course that may be a State line.